

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 607 - SB 639

March 6, 2017

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes a healthcare provider or individual medical professional that executes a contract with the Department of Health (DOH) or a governmental contractor to deliver volunteer healthcare services to eligible low-income patients to be considered an agent of the state for purposes of the Tennessee Governmental Tort Liability Act, while acting within the scope of the duties under the contract so long as the contract complies with this section and regardless of whether the individual treated is later found to be ineligible for such services. Requires that the healthcare provider or medical professional under contract with the state will not be named as a defendant in any action arising out of medical care or treatment provided under the terms of contracts entered into under this section.

Requires the DOH to establish a quality assurance program to monitor services delivered under any contract entered into. Requires the DOH to annually report to the Speaker of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leaders, and the Chairs of the Health and Welfare Committee of the Senate and the Health Committee of the House of Representatives, summarizing the efficacy of access and treatment outcomes with respect to providing healthcare services for low-income patients.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$13,500/One-Time
\$260,600/Recurring**

Assumptions:

- Based on information provided by the DOH, the DOH cannot accommodate the provisions of the proposed legislation within existing resources. The DOH will require three additional positions to create the quality assurance program.
- The one-time increase in state expenditures associated with the additional positions is estimated to be \$13,500 (\$5,400 computer cost + \$8,100 office furniture).
- The recurring increase in state expenditures associated with the additional positions is estimated to be \$260,646 (\$181,300 salaries + \$50,846 benefits + \$23,700 administrative cost + \$3,000 communications + \$1,800 supplies).
- Based on information provided by the Bureau of TennCare, enrollees could still seek services and contracted providers could participate as volunteers but would not receive payment; therefore, any fiscal impact to the Bureau is estimated to be not significant.

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- Based on information provided by the Department of Finance and Administration, Division of Benefits Administration (Benefits Administration), the proposed legislation will not affect any operations or plans provided by Benefits Administration; therefore, any fiscal impact to the Division is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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